

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE



**Medical Officer
of Health**

FOR THE YEAR

1963

To which is appended the Report of the
Chief Public Health Inspector

Nantwich Rural District

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To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Nantwich Rural District for the year 1963.

The increased rate of private development within the area which was noted in 1962 has continued, and this is again reflected in the population figure which has increased by approximately 500, and judging from the new proposals already approved by the Council this increase is likely to continue.

The introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, which enables a charge to be made for inspection, was most welcome. This should go a long way to meeting the cost of this service, or at least that proportion, estimated at 83%, which is for consumption outside the district.

The 10 year slum clearance programme is well advanced and there seems to be every possibility that it will be completed in due time by the 31st December, 1965. Whilst the demolition of slum property might appear to be a negative form of progress, it will be seen from the report that during the year over £12,000 was made available by the Council in the form of grants to restore and modernise existing sub-standard property.

Whilst definite progress is now being made with respect to the major schemes for sewage disposal in the larger village centres, pockets of development are now arising throughout the district in advance of adequate sewage facilities. Reference can be made to the villages of Bulkeley, Hough, Warmingham, together with the Ravensmoor district of Burland, where the building concentration already proposed is such that the present approved method of individual sewage disposal by septic tank, must soon prove inadequate and give rise to a public health nuisance. It would appear therefore, that the

Council should review the present priorities for the smaller village schemes in the light of such new development, and in the meantime, endeavour to obtain planning permission in those localities where sewers already exist, but where for the moment it appears that building is being restricted.

I am grateful to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. KENNETH HAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Stapeley, Nantwich.

July, 1964.

Nantwich Rural District Council

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Whole Council

Chairman: Councillor S. W. Jackson

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. E. Holmes

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NANTWICH DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor C. W. Jones

Councillor A. Blakeman

Councillor Mrs. M. Milnes Walker

Councillor F. A. Moore

Councillor J. Dulson

Councillor W. Richardson

Councillor E. S. Dutton

Councillor J. H. Williams

Councillor Mrs. A. E. Turner

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. R. Kenneth Hay, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: John S. Townley, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.Inst. P.C.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: John Craven, Cert.
S.I.B., Cert.I. of Housing

Additional Public Health Inspector: Malcolm B. Elliott,
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector: J. Russell Adderley,
Cert. S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector: Kenneth M. Jones, Cert.
P.H.I.E.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector: L. Peter Boardman,
Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerical Assistant/Shorthand Typist: Mrs. Gillian E.
Mottershead

Male Trainee: Charles C. Brookfield

Clerk: David L. Simcoe (from 11/2/63 to 31/8/63)

Laurence A. Penhall (from 9/9/63)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	100,844
Population	...	...	...	...	...	29,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963)	...	...	...	...	...	9,718
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£847,507
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£3,458

The district is situated in the South East of Cheshire. It adjoins the County of Salop in the South and the County of Stafford in the east, and forms part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire. It surrounds the Borough of Crewe and Urban District of Nantwich. Whilst the area is predominantly agricultural, a large proportion of the population is to be found in those parishes contiguous to Crewe and Nantwich, in which towns they find their employment. The main source of employment in the Rural District is agriculture and industries allied with it. These take the form of milk and milk product factories, corn mills and agricultural engineering; the latter having increased locally with the mechanisation of farming. There is one clothing factory, which in the main employs female labour. There is virtually no unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	420
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.46
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)							3.57

Still Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.98
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	429
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.05
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.63
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 7.14

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 7.14

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 27.97

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Deaths

Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.67
Standardised death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Figure for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2

ROAD ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES

The Road Safety Officer has kindly supplied the following particulars :

	1962	1963
Total number of accidents	357	357

Persons Killed

Children under 5 years	—	—
Children aged 5 to 15 years	—	—
Persons over 15 years	5	18
	5	18

The above figures include the following:—

Persons who reside in the Rural District of Nantwich	2	10
Persons who reside outside the Rural District of Nantwich	3	8
	5	18

Persons Injured

Children under 5 years (serious)	1	—
Children under 5 years (slight)	2	—
Children 5 to 15 years (serious)	1	1
Children 5 to 15 years (slight)	7	13
Persons over 15 years (serious)	43	34
Persons over 15 years (slight)	155	197
	209	245

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The following weather conditions for the year, have been supplied by the Principal of the Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath, Nantwich:—

Climatic Data—1963

Month	Rainfall in inches	Air Temp. in degrees F. and C.			
		Minimum		Maximum	
		°F	°C	°F	°C
January ...	1.120	1	—17	41	5
February ...	0.295	11	—12	46	8
March ...	1.420	23	— 5	59	15
April ...	1.595	32	0	64	17
May ...	1.640	31	— 1	78	25
June ...	2.770	39	4	82	27
July ...	2.820	41	5	80	26
August ...	2.200	40	4	74	23
September ...	2.255	36	2	76	24
October ...	2.350	36	2	66	19
November ...	4.090	26	— 3	58	14
December ...	0.305	15	— 9	51	11

Total rainfall 1963 — 22.86 inches

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parastic diseases	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	2	14
Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus	11	1	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	7	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	35	57
Coronary disease, angina	41	23	64
Hypertension with heart disease	5	3	8
Other heart disease	19	19	38
Other circulatory disease	7	5	12
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	11	12	23
Bronchitis	12	7	19
Other disease of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	13	23
Motor Vehicle accidents	5	5	10
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	4	3	7
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total (all causes)	181	158	339

There was no cause of unusual or excessive mortality

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from cancer (all ages) ...	33	24	57

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory at Chester accepts samples of water and ice-cream for analysis and the arrangements introduced with the Group Laboratory of the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee in 1956, for accepting other bacteriological specimens continues, and the service given is much appreciated.

The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by the County Analyst to whom a fee is payable.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Divisional Health Committee relinquished control of the Ambulance Service in February, 1961. With the use of Radio Control this service is now operated centrally at County Level, with vehicles and personnel based at Crewe. Local requests for ambulance transport are accepted at the Ambulance Depot., Badger Avenue, Crewe.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths or pools in this area.

NURSING SERVICES

Most valuable work continues to be carried out by the 16 Nurse/Midwives serving the District. Apart from a few minor alterations in the districts no major changes took place during the year.

For information purposes a detailed list of Nurses and Health Visitors with the parishes they cover, is shown in Appendix I.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Midwives Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Wednesday p.m.
Ante-natal		
Preparation Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Monday p.m.
Screening Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Friday p.m. 1st and 2nd
School Minor	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Monday a.m. 2nd and 4th
Ailment Clinic		
Paediatric Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Ludford Street, Crewe	3rd Friday p.m.
	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Stalbridge Road, Crewe	1st Friday p.m.
Eye Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday a.m.
Cerebral Palsy	201 Edleston Road, Crewe	Tuesday a.m. and p.m. and Friday p.m.
Clinic		
Speech Therapy	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Tuesday a.m. and p.m.
Dental Clinic	The C.C. Clinic Centre, Barker Street, Nantwich	Tuesday p.m. Thursday a.m. and p.m.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Year of Immunisation and Vaccination	Immunisation		Vaccination	
	Primary Immunisation	Re- Immunisation	Primary Vaccination	Re- Vaccination
1959	183	195	168	20
1960	257	342	229	19
1961	384	220	240	34
1962	399	46	1,017	889
1963	406	184	81	43

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Protection against poliomyelitis continues and from figures compiled from records received from General Practitioners it is noted that oral vaccine is becoming more widely used. In fact of those children in the district who received protection for the first time, 79% received an oral dose of Sabin vaccine.

HOSPITALS

General hospitals at Crewe, Nantwich, and Hartshill in Staffordshire, serve the Rural District, with the old Isolation Hospital now known as Alvaston being available for convalescent cases.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases in the Rural Area are accepted at the Crewe Isolation Hospital, which has met all needs during the year.

The Maternity Hospital at Linden Grange, Crewe, and the Maternity wards at the Barony Hospital, Nantwich, continued to serve the Rural District.

Hospitalisation of tuberculous patients is at Hefferston Grange within the County of Cheshire, and the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium within the County of Salop. In addition, there is within the Rural District at Wrenbury a rehabilitation centre for tuberculous patients who are trained in light industrial occupations.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

The arrangements made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary at the Barony Hospital, Nantwich, have worked satisfactorily and continued to meet the needs of the Rural District.

DISINFECTION

Terminal disinfection is carried out at homes of patients suffering from infectious diseases, as and when required. Arrangements for the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing, etc., are made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, the work being carried out at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

CARAVAN SITES

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, continues in force for controlling the establishment of caravan sites.

All existing sites have been reviewed and dealt with under this Act. Generally speaking applications have been for individual caravans and approvals have been conditional and limited to a three year period.

The site at Church Minshull is established for up to 56 residential caravans and improvements to comply with licence conditions have been made.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The close liaison between the Council, the Divisional Health Committee, the Local Health Authority, and the County Welfare Department continued to make it possible to administer Section 47 without legal proceedings. In many cases, the provision of a Home Help made it possible for aged persons to continue residence in their own homes and in their own familiar environment.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER INSECT PESTS

No Council or private houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which deals with the matter is attached hereto.

SCHOOLS

No schools were closed during the year as a result of infectious diseases or epidemics.

SHOPS ACTS

The District Council is responsible for enforcement of provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers with respect to ventilation, temperature, and sanitary conveniences, and the requirements in this connection are being adequately complied with.

NUTRITION

No action under this heading has been taken by this Council, but the Welfare Centres at Audlem, Bunbury, Haslington, Shavington, Wistaston and Wrenbury, under the supervision of the Divisional Health Committee have continued to do valuable work in this respect.

SHELL-FISH

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this district.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council is a constituent member of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board which is responsible for the provision of mains water in 68 of the 69 parishes which form the Rural District; the remaining one being Peckforton which is supplied by the Trustees of the Peckforton Estate. They obtain water under agreement from the Liverpool Corporation whose Vyrnwy Aqueduct crosses the Estate, and this is distributed through private mains to the majority of the dwellinghouses in the parish, the remainder being supplied by mains fed from the private well supply to the Castle.

The Council does not normally take samples of mains water as the Board undertake this work themselves, and forward copies of results to the Council for information, the Health Department only taking samples from the few private supplies remaining in the district. Forty-eight parishes are completely provided with mains water, of the remaining 20 parishes (excluding Peckforton), there are 14 parishes with only one property without mains water, 4 with two properties, 2 with three properties. There are no residential properties known to be obtaining water from standpipes, other than occasional caravan sites.

During the course of the year three unsatisfactory private supplies were replaced by connection to the mains.

The position excluding estate supplies at the end of 1963 is summarised as follows:—

Bad private supplies	...	...	7 (serving 7 properties)
Suspicious private supplies	...	...	7 (serving 8 properties)
Satisfactory private supplies	...	...	12

There were 39 samples taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination, 20 proving satisfactory with the remaining 19 unsatisfactorily.

All occupiers of premises with a bad or suspicious supply have been notified to boil all water intended for domestic purposes.

In April the Council considered the question of fluoridation of water supplies in connection with a resolution of the County Health Committee submitted with a report of the County Medical Officer of Health, which approved in principle the fluoridation of water supplies in Cheshire to the extent of one part per million, and the Council accepted the report and approved the County Council's recommendation. No natural fluoride exists in the water supply.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. There were 5 cases of Tuberculosis notified, all of which were Pulmonary, these exclude Inward Transfers.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES SHOWING INCIDENCE OF CASES IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS AMONG CIVILIANS

	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	TOTALS
Under 1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	9
1—	—	—	—	3	24	—	—	27
2—	—	—	—	—	41	—	—	41
3—	—	—	—	2	45	—	—	47
4—	—	1	—	3	33	—	—	37
5—	—	—	—	5	150	—	—	155
10—	—	2	—	5	27	—	—	34
15—	—	—	1	—	8	—	—	9
20—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	3	2	18	338	—	—	361

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES NOTIFIED (including Inward Transfers) and MORTALITY DURING 1963

Age Periods			New Cases and Transfers				Deaths			
			Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
			1	5	—	—	2	—	—	—

Total Cases: 7 Deaths: 1

Number of Cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years, 1963:—

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
37	11	25	3

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. G. T. Jury) provides the following information with respect to Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Housing:—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The improvement of drainage conditions in the main villages has continued to be the chief consideration of the Council during the year.

Main Village Schemes

The following is the state which these schemes have now reached.

1. **Audlem.** The final details have been completed and Bills of Quantities prepared. Tenders have been submitted to the Council and it is expected that construction work will start in 1964 following approval by the Ministry. The Council have appointed Consulting Engineers to supervise the construction of the contract.
2. **Wybunbury and Walgherton.** The Council's Quantity Surveyors have completed the preparation of Bills of Quantities and Tenders have been submitted to the Council. It is expected that work on this scheme will commence during 1964 following approval by the Ministry. Consulting Engineers have been engaged to supervise the construction of the contract.

The experimental disposal of nightsoil at Doddington Sewage Works has continued and an improvement has been made by the installation of a supply of water for washing down the dilution of the influent from the tankers.

3. **Bunbury.** The detailed design of this scheme is proceeding and outline approval has been sought from the Ministry and County Council.
4. **Stapeley.** Work on this contract was substantially completed in September despite very poor ground conditions and stoppage of work due to the arctic weather conditions of January and February. Properties are now being connected to the new sewer.

Gresty Sewer. Detailed design work was completed by Crewe Corporation and contract work was commenced in September with the laying of 24ins., 21ins. and 18ins. concrete pipes.

Small Drainage Schemes.

A contract has been let for improvement to existing drainage systems at Elton Lane, Winterley; Peacock Cottages, Crewe Road, Willaston; and surface water drain at London Road, Stapeley.

Closet Conversion

With the ultimate end in view of the conversion of all pail closets existing on premises where a public sewer is available, the Council continued to make contributions towards such voluntary conversion and 60 applications were dealt with.

The Council decided in December to take compulsory action on those pail closets outstanding and the owners of approximately 65 properties in Haslington, Willaston, Shavington, Stapeley and Worleston will be served with such notice.

HOUSING

During 1963, 120 new dwellings were completed by private enterprise, and at the end of the year, 140 were under construction.

With regard to Council housing the following bungalows were completed:—

Woolstanwood—2 single bedroom and 1 two-bedroom bungalows.

Weston—12 single bedroom bungalows.

Minshull Vernon—3 single bedroom bungalows.

Audlem—4 single bedroom bungalows.

This brings the total of this type of dwelling up to 76.

Contracts are in hand for the erection of 16 dwellings at Acton; 17 at Waterloo Road, Haslington; 4 at Spurstow and 10 at Wrenbury, whilst sites at Church Minshull, Alpraham, Shavington, Marbury, Wybunbury, Bunbury, Warmingham and Wardle are in varying stages of preliminary negotiations.

Details are being finalised of a complete scheme to provide Part III accommodation and full welfare facilities at Waterloo Road, Haslington.

Improvements to housing accommodation by means of Improvement Grants continued, and during the year, Discretionary Grants in respect of 15 properties and amounting to £4,145 were approved, and Standard Grants covering 73 properties and amounting to £8,182.

APPENDIX 1

NURSES AND HEALTH VISITORS SERVING THE NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT

Nurses	Parishes
Miss L. C. JONES, The Grove, Acton. Tel. No. Nantwich 65571.	Acton, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Brindley, Burland, Edleston, Faddiley, Henhull, Hurleston, Stoke, Wardle.
Miss M. P. M. FEEHAN, The Oak, Bunbury, Tarpoley. Tel. No. Bunbury 266.	Alraham, Bunbury, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow.
Mrs. R. E. FORT, Laundry Cottage, Rookery Park, Worleston, Nantwich. Tel. No. Nantwich 65941.	Aston-Juxta-Mondrum, Cholmondeston, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.
Miss M. H. HUNTER, The Gables, Audlem. Tel. No. Audlem 422.	Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Newhall, (part), Coole Pilate.
Mrs. E. WEATHERALL, 22 Cresswellshaw Road, Alsager. Tel. No. Alsager 67.	Barthomley.
Mrs. FEATHER, 12 Burlea Drive, Shavington. Tel. No. Crewe 67234.	Basford, Chorlton, Hough, Rope, Shavington-cum-Gresty, Weston, Wybunbury (small part).
Mrs. B. A. MOSS, 20 Mill Grove, Bulkeley. Tel. No. Cholmondeley 217.	Bickerton, Bulkeley, Egerton.
Miss B. E. OVERSON, 15 Gorsey Bank Crescent, Wybunbury, Tel. No. Wybunbury 329.	Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Doddington, Hatherton, Hunsterson, Lea, Walgherton, Wybunbury (part).
Miss W. A. GEORGE, Council Houses, Newhall Lane, Aston, Newhall. Tel. No. Aston 286.	Broomhall, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Newhall (part), Norbury (part), Sound, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.
Miss M. BROCKLEHURST, Bickley Moss, Whitchurch. Tel. No. Cholmondeley 268.	Cholmondeley, Chorley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Norbury (part), Wirswall.
Miss D. WILLIAMS, 33 Cartwright Road, Haslington. Tel. No. Crewe 2693.	Crewe Green, Haslington.

Nurses

Miss E. REILLY,
22 Jackson Avenue,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 65570.

Miss E. E. GERRARD,
647 Crewe Road,
Wheelock.
Tel. No. Sandbach 281.

Miss B. E. BRAY,
34 Elm Close,
Wistaston.
Tel. No. Crewe 2431.

Parishes

Batherton, Stapeley, Willaston (small part).

Warmingham.

Wistaston, Willaston (part).

HEALTH VISITORS

Mrs. F. G. KIRKHAM,
St. Bees,
Marsh Lane,
Nantwich.

Acton, Baddiley, Baddington, Brindley, Broomhall, Bulkeley, Bunbury, Burland, Cholmondeley, Chorley, Edleston, Faddiley, Haughton, Hurleston, Marbury-cum-Quoisley, Norbury, Peckforton, Ridley, Sound, Spurstow, Stoke, Wirswall, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.

Miss E. M. SCOTT,
The Dowery,
Welfare Centre,
Barker Street,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 65360.

Alpraham, Aston-Juxta-Mondrum, Calveley, Cholmondeston, Henhull, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wardle, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.

Miss D. GRIFFITHS,
East View,
Little Heath,
Audlem.
Tel. No. Audlem 443.

Audlem, Austerson, Batherton, Basford (part), Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Buerton, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Coole Pilate, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Doddington, Hankelow, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, Newhall, Stapeley, Walgherton, Wybunbury.

Mrs. A. CLAYTON,
The Dowery,
Welfare Centre,
Barker Street,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 65360.

Barthomley, Basford (part), Crewe Green, Shavington-cum-Gresty Weston, Haslington, Rope, Warmingham.

Mrs. W. JONES,
Lyle Villas,
Caergwrle,
Nr. Wrexham.

Bickerton, Egerton.

Mrs. R. DAVIES,
84 Church Lane,
Wistaston.

Willaston, Wistaston.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1963

Public Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Stapeley,
Nantwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The following report sets out in some detail the extent of the practical work undertaken by the Public Health Department of the Council, during the year 1963, under the main headings in which it falls.

It should be appreciated that behind this practical work there is a very extensive background of specialist administration, involving correspondence, the keeping of records, the preparation of notices and reports, which has to be efficiently supervised to ensure that the work of the department runs smoothly. The technical nature of much of this administrative work does absorb a considerable amount of time of the technical staff, the extent of which is considerably influenced by the quality and experience of the office staff. Continual changes of office staff can be a considerable headache, as it takes a long time to learn the routine of the department in all its varied aspects.

The staff of Public Health Inspectors remained unchanged, but the position of male clerk changed twice during the year. It is pleasing to record that the very healthy team spirit which prevails in the department continued, and contributes in no small way to smooth and expeditious accomplishment of the work which has to be undertaken often under difficult conditions and at some personal inconvenience.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Much of the work that comes within the scope of a Public Health Department has to be dealt with as it arises and cannot be put off. Meat Inspection is an example, which in some respects goes still further into the category of urgency, insomuch as generally speaking, it is predetermined. This work is undertaken by the Inspectors on a rota basis which endeavours to arrange for the burden of work to be fairly divided. Other urgent matters, cropping up at short notice have to be dealt with by the Inspector most conveniently available at the time and in this group we have the investigation and control of infectious diseases, food poisoning enquiries, and statutory nuisances. In fact it is almost true to say that the public today expect an Inspector to be on the spot almost immediately, and that a complainant considers his problem the most urgent in the world.

The general survey work under the various acts of parliament which the District Council has to administer; in connection with housing, food and drugs, factories, pest control, is allocated so that a particular Inspector deals with all the work in a particular group. By this means we maintain a uniform approach to all problems, with a similar application of all the regulations that apply at all the premises concerned. In other words we endeavour to have general standard applying throughout the area, and even then much depends on the interpretation of a regulation as it effects the particular circumstances of the case.

In the following table the various headings indicate the primary purpose of the visits recorded against them, but it must be emphasized, that an Inspector is always on the look out to ensure that the whole range of Acts and Regulations that apply in any particular circumstance are being adequately complied with; even though these are not listed as individual inspections.

Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	962
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	29
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	100
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	529
Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Premises—Sampling, Inspection, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	710
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	113
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	123
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	326
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	2,971
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	307
National Assistance Acts	...	...	...	...	...	5
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	33
Cheshire County Council Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	...	...	28
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	77
TOTAL						6,331

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Acts:—

Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	3
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	11

Housing Acts:—

Notices to appear	...	...	...	...	19
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	18
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	12
Undertakings to Close	...	...	...	...	1

Food and Drugs Act:—

Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	18
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	14

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Housing Acts 1954—61

There was one appeal in the County Court against a Demolition Order, which resulted in the Judge quashing the Order. Two similar appeals, made in previous years and adjourned, were withdrawn.

Public Health Act, 1936

One application was made to the Justices for a Nuisance Order which was granted.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

All necessary enquiries and investigations into cases notified to the Medical Officer of Health were made as required. Particular attention was given to those cases where food handlers were involved. There were 2 specimens submitted to the laboratory in connection therewith.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The search for rats and mice is undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors as part of their normal inspection duties under the various Acts and Regulations administered by the Public Health Department.

The sewage works and refuse disposal sites are kept under regular supervision with treatments carried out as required.

There are still 16 business premises under annual contract with the Council, 7 of which had been originally under the supervision of the County Council, and transferred to us in January, 1944. Continuous supervision, with treatment as necessary, coupled with proofing, has resulted in infestations at their susceptible premises being kept at an absolute minimum.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work under this heading, involving emptying of 11,390 dust-bins each fortnight and the weekly cleansing of 1,539 closet pails continued satisfactorily.

The slow but steady reduction in the number of Pail closets continued to be sufficient to offset demands on the scheme by additional requirements of household refuse arising from new housing developments throughout the rural district.

Nightsoil disposal by composting continued to operate satisfactorily and the experiment to deal with this commodity through sewage disposal works is worthy of expansion when circumstances permit.

Generally speaking the availability of refuse disposal sites is fairly secure for some years to come, apart from certain parts of the area where expense must be anticipated for the acquisition of land for this purpose.

Amongst other things, refuse, and nightsoil disposal facilities have a considerable bearing on the size and types of vehicles we can economically and effectively use from the point of collection. Collection can be a simple problem to solve, but getting rid of the load is another matter indeed.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No special action became necessary under this Act during the year, and it is believed that the Act is being reasonably met so far as sanitary conveniences are concerned.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following is a copy of the table forwarded by the Ministry of Labour for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to factories:—

Part I of the Act

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	NUMBER OF	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	293	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	19	1	—
TOTAL	138	326	5	—

2—Cases in which defects were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	5	5	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	9	5	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act—Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

	Section 133				Section 134	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel						
Making etc.	12	—	—	—	—	—

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

In 1962 the Council agreed to make a complimentary Smoke Control Order with the Borough of Crewe No. 1 (Marshfield Bank and Wistaston Green) Smoke Control Order, involving 269 houses, of which 255 are Council houses built by Crewe Corporation in the Nantwich Rural Area.

The details were submitted to the Minister, whose decision is still awaited.

HOUSING

The Council's ten year programme for dealing with unfit houses expires at the 31st December, 1965, and already the legal procedure is practically completed with respect to the original 281 unfit houses involved.

To complete this programme all the unfit houses concerned must either have been made fit, demolished, or closed, and to achieve this the question of suitable alternative accommodation is an important factor. This problem is complicated still further by the scattered nature of the district and the reluctance of people, especially aged persons, to move away from their own localities.

The number of condemned houses still occupied at the 31st December, 1963 was 62 and the number awaiting demolition 38, many of the latter forming one of a pair or part of a terrace where one or more houses are still occupied.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following list of food premises covers a wide range of businesses, with a variety of problems. No matter how well basic structural requirements are complied with, it is, as in most things, the human element which finally determines the issue, and standards of food hygiene depend greatly on the attitude of the individual.

Catering Establishments—

Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	7
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	32
Factory and Office canteens	...	...	...	...	8
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	4

Licensed Premises—

Full Licence	...	...	...	...	...	59
Off Licence	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3

Shops—

Grocery, Greengrocery, Confectionery and Sweets	...	121
Butchers	...	15
Chemists	...	4
Wet Fish	...	2

Poultry Dressing and Plucking Establishments	...	8
Licensed Slaughterhouses		10
Registered Dairies		21
Registered Distributors of Milk		39
Registered Hawkers		49

Premises Registered for—

Manufacture of Ice-Cream		3
Storage and Sale of Ice-cream		102
Preparation or manufacture of Sausage or pressed, potted or preserved meat, etc.		10

Education and publicity are doing much to improve standards of hygiene and the personal approach by Public Health Inspectors must be a power for good, where they can gain the confidence of both the management and staff—rather than being looked upon as “sanitary policemen”.

New establishments must be expected to comply with all the regulations in their entirety from the start, and it is unfortunate that architects and builders do not seek advice in advance and so avoid the necessity for alteration and additional work after the business has opened up.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

The total weight of food condemned other than at slaughterhouses was 109 lbs.

The following samples of ice-cream were taken:—

109 samples of Ice-cream.

11 samples of Ice-lollies.

All the above samples were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES AND MEAT INSPECTION

There were ten slaughterhouses licensed during the year, but one of these was never used and killing at another steadily declined until it was actually out of use by the end of the year.

Whilst the total number of animals killed was slightly down on last year—47,811 as against 50,708—the meat inspection units—247,271, as against 227,180 being higher, in consequence of a large increase in the number of cattle slaughtered. The considerable drop in the number of sheep slaughtered can no doubt be attributed to the very severe weather conditions at the beginning of the year.

The estimated percentage of animals slaughtered for consumption outside the Rural District was 83%.

The following table shows the details of animals inspected and meat condemned:—

	Cattle					
	(Excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Number killed	6,084	11,258	2,255	10,538	17,661	47,811
Number inspected	6,084	11,258	2,255	10,538	17,661	47,811

All diseases except tuberculosis

Whole Carcases condemned ...	15	46	91	51	39	242
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Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,361	8,500	24	1,652	992	12,529
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Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis ...	22.6	75.9	5.1	16.2	5.8	12.7
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Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
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Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	68	—	47	—	118
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Percentage of the number inspected infected with tuberculosis ...	.05	.60	—	.44	—	.24
--	-----	-----	---	-----	---	-----

The estimated total weight of meat condemned was 113 tons 7 cwts. 1 qr. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. compared with 103 tons 3 qrs. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. in 1962 and 89 tons 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts. in 1961.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 29.

The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 came into force as from the 1st October and the Council decided to apply the maximum charges for inspections which during the last three months of the year amounted to a total of £872 compared with £815 for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1963, under the grant arrangements.

Percentages affected with Tuberculosis

Animals Affected		1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Cows	...	27.0	13.2	5.4	2.4	2.8	.06
Cattle (other than cows)		12.0	7.4	4.2	0.4	0.4	.05
All animals (incl. calves, pigs and sheep)		3.9	2.3	1.3	0.5	0.4	.24

Of the cattle affected in 1963, 76 cows were consigned to slaughter-houses in this district under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order and 42.1% of these were found to be affected with visible lesions of tuberculosis.

All unsound meat is sterilized or destroyed either at the slaughter-houses or, as is usually the case in this area, after removal to an approved place, and suitable condemned livers are allocated for pharmaceutical purposes. A certificate of voluntary surrender is signed which specifies the arrangements made for its disposal.

11 cows and 11 other cattle were affected with *cysticercus bovis* and detained in cold store for the prescribed period before being released for human consumption.

CANALS

The canals which cross the area are now only used very little for commercial purposes, pleasure boats having gained the monopoly. The disposal of refuse and litter have been the cause for some concern, but it is hoped that this problem will continue to be overcome with the co-operation of the British Waterways Board.

OFFENSIVE TRADE

The only one in the area—a tripe boiler—continued to operate without cause for complaint.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The requirements of this Act, which are under the Council's jurisdiction—ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences—are being adequately complied with.

I am

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst. P.C.

27th April, 1964.



